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Cracking Down on Meth Labs

George introduces legislation to stop theft of methamphetamine ingredient

LANSING – Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Township, last week announced the introduction of Senate Bill 739, which along with a package of other bills is designed to crack down on illegal “meth” labs.

“I have seen the devastating consequences these drugs have on users, and the pain it causes friends and family,” George said. “We need to stop this epidemic.”

In 1999, more than a million Americans used “meth”—more than those who used crack and almost three times as many as used heroin. Statewide, figures from the Michigan State Police show 206 methamphetamine labs were seized in 2002, up 91 labs from 2001. Two recent fires in West Michigan are further examples of how dangerous producing methamphetamine can be.

“Methamphetamine labs are on the rise in Michigan,” said Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Twp. “This is a dangerous and addictive drug, and we must act to prevent any further manufacture and use, and to prevent its further contamination into our local neighborhoods.”

As introduced, SB 739 makes the theft or attempted theft of anhydrous ammonia, a main ingredient in methamphetamines, a felony punishable by imprisonment of up to four years and/or a fine of up to \$2,000.

The legislation has been placed before the Senate Judiciary Committee for review.

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Comments from Senator George on the Meth Lab legislation are available for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at www.senate.michigan.gov/gop or by calling the radio hotline at 517-373-4000.